

Historic, archived document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.

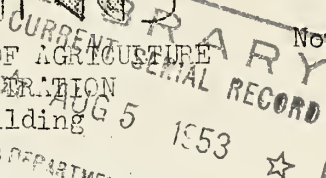
FAMILY LIVING

Bulletin No. 18

Reserve File: 6-F7

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FARMERS HOME ADMINISTRATION
439 New England Building
Topeka, Kansas

November, 1951



1. 949
212
FEED HENS ALL THEY WILL EAT -- With eggs the price they are selling, hens should be well fed in order to get maximum production from them. Layers should have mash available all of the time in feeders that prevent waste of feed. Fresh mash should be added at least once a day. For every 100 hens there should be 15 feet of feeder that permits the birds to eat from both sides. Do not restrict the feed intake of laying hens in any way. Give the layers all they will eat all of the time. Reducing feed intake 25% will reduce production approximately 52%.

Layers may be fed a complete all-mash diet, but the usual practice is to feed mash and whole grain. When this is done, the grain mixture should be fed once or twice a day in amounts that provide about equal quantities of grain and mash. The grain may be fed in the mash hoppers or in separate hoppers.

Oystershell or limestone grit should be supplied in separate hoppers, except in the rare cases in which all of the required limestone is mixed in the mash. Insoluble grit also may be supplied in separate hoppers. It is needed especially by confined chickens that can't pick up stones and pebbles on range.

FEED THE RIGHT MASH -- Be sure to feed the right mash for a given purpose. If you want hatching eggs, use a breeder mash. If you are producing eggs for market, use a laying mash. Breeder mashes are fortified with certain vitamins essential for high hatchability and quality of chicks. The list of ingredients of a laying mash should include soybean meal or a combination of soybean meal with one or more of the following: meat meal, fish meal, peanut meal or corn gluten meal. It should include a riboflavin supplement, vitamin A and D feeding oil, salt, manganese sulfate, a phosphorus supplement such as steamed bone meal, and a calcium supplement such as limestone or oystershell. It may or may not contain mill feed and alfalfa meal.

Mashes to be fed with grain should be guaranteed to contain at least 20% of protein.

Points of emphasis:

1. Feed a breeder mash to birds producing hatching eggs, a laying mash to birds producing eggs for market.
2. Feed a mash that is guaranteed to contain at least 20% of protein if mash and grain are fed in equal parts.
3. Be sure mash is available at all times with enough feeder space.
4. Use feeders that prevent waste.
5. Add fresh mash to feeders at least once a day.
6. If grain and mash are fed, feed once or twice a day in mash hoppers or in separate hoppers.
7. Feed oystershell or limestone grit in separate hoppers.

(Information secured from "Feed Poultry Efficiently" -- USDA - October, 1951.)

